

is very encouraging and central monastic body has also received recognition by WHO for their efforts in tobacco control.

### Challenges

Despite current successes in issues related to the harmful effects of tobacco there are still substantive challenges. Scarce programme resources, a paucity of national data, and sustaining the active involvement of other sectors are some of the hurdles. Predicted increases in smoking trends among youth who comprise 43% of the nation's population implies that legislative and price measures for tobacco control be given high priority. The absence of such measures could possibly dilute past achievements. However, given the multitude of positive social, cultural, political, and environmental factors, compounded by the extraordinary leadership and commitment at all levels, the prospects of creating a tobacco-free nation remain bright.

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## The lighter side .....



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